PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY OF REPRESENTATIVE RAIYATS AND MERCHANTS, HELD AT MYSORE IN OCTOBER 1899.

MEMORANDUM.

The Eighteenth Assembly of Representative Raiyats and Merchants was held in the Durbar Hall of the Public Office Buildings at Mysore on Tuesday the 17th October 1899 and the four days following.

2. The Assembly consisted of the Members elected in 1897 under the system of triennial elections instituted in 1894. Its full nominal strength was 277. Excluding vacancies, &c., the total number of members returned for the year 1899 was 266, made up as follows :—

Representatives returned by—

67	Taluks, including Sub-Taluks	204
24	Municipal Boards, each representing a population of 5,000 and above	39
8	Local Fund Boards	16
7	Associations representing public interests	7
	Total ...	266

Of these,

3	were Europeans,
17	were Mahomedans,
1	was a Native Christian and
245	were Hindus.

Arranged according to occupation,

25	were merchants,
10	were sahukars,
170	were landholders, and
61	belonged to other trades and professions.

3. The actual attendance on the opening day was only 107, the falling off being due to the prevalence of plague in parts of the State.

4. The Proceedings opened at 12 noon on the date aforementioned. There were present on the occasion the Members of the State Council, the Heads of Departments, and other principal Officers of State, besides several European and other guests of Her Highness the Maharani-Regent. Owing to the absence of the Dewan, Sir K. Sheshadri Iyer, K. C. S. I., who was prevented by indisposition from attending, Mr. T. R. A. Thumboo Chetty, C. I. E., the Senior Member of Council, presided and read the Address containing an exposition of the financial condition and prospects of Mysore for the past official year.

5. A Kanarese translation of the Address was afterwards read out by Mr C. Sreenivasiengar, Secretary to Government in the General and Revenue Departments.

6. The Representatives of the North and the South Mysore Planters' Associations (Messrs. Pilkington and Playfair) and the Kolar Gold Fields Mining Board (Mr. Bullen) then made each a few observations, regretting the absence of the Dewan, expressing their appreciation of the measures adopted to combat the plague, and conveying the thanks of the bodies they represented for various specific benefits conferred on them by the Government during the past official year. These speeches are printed at the end of this volume.

Mr. Nadig Sivappa of Sorab, on behalf of the general body of Members of the Representative Assembly, expressed the hope that the Dewan would soon completely recover from his recent indisposition. He added that the Assembly was highly gratified to find that the Marikanave project was being carried out at a large outlay, and thankful for the sanitary improvements and other measures adopted for the suppression of the plague.

7 The discussion of the various subjects brought forward by the Representatives was commenced on Wednesday the 18th and concluded on Saturday the 21st October. A brief summary of these subjects and of the replies of Government is appended.

8. At the close of the Proceedings in the afternoon of the 21st idem, the Assembly, through Mr. Nadig Sivappa, expressed their deep gratitude to Her Highness the Maharani-Regent for having been pleased, notwithstanding the prevalence of plague in some parts of the country, to call this meeting of the Assembly with the view of redressing the grievances of the people, tendered their sincere thanks for the patient hearing given to their several representations, and requested that their sentiments of loyalty might be conveyed to Her Highness.

By Order,

C. SREENIVASIENGAR,

Secy. to Govt., Gen. & Rev. Depts.